

**Minutes of Teleconference on
Workshop Process
Federal Oil Rule
March 18, 1999**

Participants:

Department of Interior

Hugh Hilliard
Lucy Querques Denett
Dale Fazio
Larry Cobb
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Industry

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Ken Leonard
Mark Rubin
Chip Rothchild

Industry representatives began the meeting by referring to fax memorandum (attachment) titled Suggestions for MMS Regarding Workshops. Their intent in transmitting the memo was to facilitate setting an agenda for dialog at the workshops. The items are not cast in stone but are provided as ideas to stimulate thought.

First industry summarized the content of the memorandum:

The first few bullets in Section A are a reaffirmation of the commitment to the process.

Items in Section B are simple suggestions about how to approach the setup for the workshops. They are suggestions and are flexible.

The items in Section C involve interrelated topics and industry is flexible about setting an agenda including the order of topics. If the discussion gravitates between items, it should be possible to address them out of sequence. The topics are part of a package and all are related to each other.

DOI stated that it is comfortable with the seating arrangements, breaks, and the short opening statement. There is no way of knowing what other interest groups will attend and that there needs to be flexibility to include all attendees. DOI will contact other likely-concerned parties and extend a welcome to attend the meetings.

Industry acknowledged that other parties are part of the discussion and should be included.

Industry suggested that it would be helpful for MMS to outline its current position on key issues. Specifically, has anything changed since the AS-LM's letter of 8/31/98?

DOI stated that no substantive energy has been devoted to the issue since the second congressional moratorium of last October, and offered to lay out a point by point explanation of the letter. Industry agreed that it would be a productive use of time for DOI to do so.

Industry next addressed the four broad issues in Section C of its memorandum. It intends to submit illustrative questions on each of the issues to aid the discussion by Monday, March 22.

DOI wanted to know how many people would participate in discussing each issue and would there be a different set of panelists for each issue?

Industry replied that it is intention to keep the discussion informal and that purpose is best served by limiting the number of different people involved. Industry reiterated its desire to have a ongoing discussion from the first meeting onward to make the best use of our time together.

DOI wanted to know if there was a priority of the issues to be discussed.

Industry stated that there is no preference at this time but that they would take up the matter on Monday of next week during an internal meeting and submit any decisions on the matter via fax. Both parties agreed that if the matter is not settled before the first meeting that it would be taken up during the first workshop meeting.

DOI stated that the meeting minutes would be posted on the MMS Internet home page.

DOI proposed a schedule for the first meeting in Houston. Since the meeting in Albuquerque will be the next day, it was suggested that participants work through the lunch hour (lunch will be ordered and delivered to the meeting site). This will allow participants to break by 4:15 and catch their flights to Albuquerque. This was agreeable to all attendees.

DOI will try to arrange a separate room in Houston for caucusing experts during breaks.

Both industry and DOI look forward to productive workshop sessions.